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A CITY’S PEOPLE UNITE IN SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER

Four children on Friday approach a vigil post at Pine Trails Park in Parkland set up to honor the 17 students and teachers who were shot and killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Wednesday. Funerals for two of the victims were held Friday. **Stories, 5A.** Students who survived the mass shooting began demanding that the president and Congress tighten gun laws and focus less on ‘thoughts and prayers.’ **Story, 3A.**

DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING | COURTS

Shooter’s lawyers: He’ll plead guilty if death penalty is dropped

BY DAVID OVALLE
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The legal team for Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz won’t contest his guilt and will instead focus on keeping the troubled teenag-

er off Florida’s Death Row. Broward’s public defender, whose office is representing the teenage gunman, made the unexpected announcement just one day after Cruz was arrested on 17 counts of premeditated murder. The charges could

result in execution or life in prison. “He committed this crime. Everybody saw it. Everybody knows it. He’s admitted it,” Public Defender Howard Finkelstein told the Miami Herald on Friday. “The crime is horrific and

beyond words. This is going to come down to one issue — does he live or does he die?”

Cruz, 19, walked into his former school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in

SEE COURTS, 4A

DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

FBI was warned 2 times of threats

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The FBI received two alarming tips about Nikolas Cruz in the past six months: Someone who knew him well believed he was capable of murdering teachers and students. And an online commenter using the handle “nikolas cruz” professed his desire to become a “professional school shooter.”

But somehow no one at the FBI connected the dots or shared information about Cruz with the agents who might have stopped him before Wednesday, when he killed 17 people at a high school in Broward County.

The day following the massacre, the FBI said it had no way to trace the chilling online comment, flagged in September by a tipster in Mississippi, to South Florida.

Then, in a shocking admission Friday, FBI Director Christopher Wray said the tip from the person close to Cruz — delivered in a Jan. 5 phone call to a bureau hotline — was never passed along to the FBI’s field office in Miami, as official protocol required.

MORE INSIDE
FBI apologizes for failing to follow up on tip; Gov. Rick Scott calls for agency’s director to quit, **2A**

SEE WARNINGS, 2A

RUSSIAN MEDDLING INVESTIGATION

Feds: Russians duped Trump supporters into Florida rallies

BY DAVID SMILEY
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A sophisticated and clandestine Russian outfit that attempted to sow political discord through phony social media and grassroots campaigns has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges related to a series of pro-Trump rallies held in South Florida and around the country during the summer before the

2016 presidential election. Federal authorities say 13 executives of the Internet Research Agency used stolen identities and U.S.-based email addresses to organize and fund political events designed to promote Donald Trump and tear down Hillary Clinton. The indictment, signed by U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller, describes the efforts of a well-organized, St. Petersburg, Russia, syndicate.

With millions at its disposal,

the vast Russian outfit duped legitimate political organizers into furthering a foreign scheme to create chaos around the election, according to Mueller. The company spent years studying U.S. political organizations and promoting its efforts on Facebook and Instagram, paid for rally materials ahead of a Sept. 11 Miami event and even compensated actors to erect a cage on a truck flatbed in West Palm Beach big enough to hold someone

dressed up like Hillary Clinton in a prison jumpsuit.

They used a Twitter account and the Facebook group “Being Patriotic” to organize a series of Aug. 20 rallies in Florida called “Florida Goes Trump,” which they also paid to promote on social media using PayPal and bank accounts established with stolen identities and credit card numbers bought on the black market. During the scheme, which Mueller said developed

over a period of more than two years, the Russians reached out to at least three members of the Trump campaign, although the indictment does not say if the campaign members responded.

“You know, simply yelling on the Internet is not enough,” the Russians wrote to a Trump campaign official through a fake Gmail account. “There should

SEE RUSSIANS, 18A



LOCAL & STATE

MIGRANTS WARY OF FLA. TRAVEL

Advocates say immigration arrests soared faster in Florida in the past year than in any other area of the country. **4A**



BUSINESS

DRAKE GIVES \$1M TO MIAMIANS

The music artist went on a spree in Miami this month, giving away nearly \$1 million from a music video to strangers. **15A**

NATION

COSTLY TRAVELS FOR CHIEF OF EPA

Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt billed taxpayers nearly \$200,000 for his trips over six months. **20A**

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